

instruments through regulation language is untenable to those who invent new technologies that could do the same job better or cheaper. Certainly it is in the best interest of the Federal Government to ensure that the best and cheapest new technologies are used to monitor environmental contamination, wherever it occurs. It is our hope that this bill will serve as the basis for common ground on this reform of the EPA approval process, and that we will be able to address the issue in more detail in the coming months.

To be sure, there are many details yet to be worked out. This bill in no way represents the final word on how EPA should act. We know that further analysis may yield further ideas which will be considered through the normal committee process. But we intend, with this bill, to offer a starting point for discussion on this issue.

We encourage those who agree with our intent to make the EPA a more technology friendly agency to join as cosponsors to this legislation. The results will be good for both the U.S. economy and the health of our collective environment.

ENCOURAGING NEW ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING TECHNOLOGIES

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 1996

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased in joining my colleague from California [Mr. BAKER], in introducing legislation that will encourage the development of new and innovative environmental monitoring technology.

This legislation will help to improve the Environmental Protection Agency's current prescriptive analytical methods for the approval of new technology that will enable the Federal and State governments to better protect the public health and safety.

I believe we need to focus more closely on good results than process. I realize that this bill is a beginning discussion draft and welcome wide input from all interested parties in perfecting this important legislation.

HEALTH CONSCIOUS COMPANIES

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 1996

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute two area corporations, Fannie Mae of Washington, DC, and Marriott International of Bethesda, recently named by Working Woman magazine as 2 of the top 10 healthiest companies for women.

These companies are leading the way in the fight against rising health costs and against the debilitating effects of physical and mental illnesses. They have found that their employees' good health is good for business. Both Fannie Mae and Marriott received high marks for the quality of their employee health plans that included provisions for family members, for reproductive health care, for mental health care, for preventive care, and for wellness programs.

According to Working Woman, "These corporate leaders believe that what's good for female employees is good for the bottom line." Marriott International was singled out for its Wellness and You! program, which offers exercise classes, massage therapy, and other stress-reducing activities and such on-site services as cholesterol checks and healthy cooking classes.

Fannie Mae has a women's health resource center where employees can check reference materials and use on-line services to get answers to their health-related questions, take evening exercise classes, and enroll in weight-management classes.

These corporations have invested wisely in their employees and in their own futures and serve as role models for our Nation's businesses. Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing these corporations for their commitment to women's health and to their employees.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3816, ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1997

SPEECH OF

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 1996

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3816) making appropriations for energy and water development for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes:

Mr. DAVIS. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to indicate my strong opposition to the severe cuts this legislation imposes on the Department of Energy and its employees. Congress must continue to ensure, within the Department of Energy appropriations bill for fiscal year 1997, that DOE has the ability to perform its important mission of meeting our present and future energy needs. The bill under consideration by the House today funds many critical programs, yet, I believe it greatly restricts the Department of Energy's ability to perform its mission by reducing departmental administration by approximately 30 percent.

DOE's departmental administration salary and expense budget is reduced under this bill by 20 percent—a reduction of more than \$50 million in fiscal year 1997. Instead of allowing DOE to reallocate their reduced resources as they deem appropriate, it forces DOE to reduce positions by capping FTE totals at 1,029—a reduction of nearly 500 FTE's, or one-third of the departmental administration staff. Further the bill sets specific FTE targets for individual offices with this account.

Last Year, in the fiscal year 1996 appropriations bill, Congress asked DOE headquarters personnel and certain programs to make significant cuts. The departmental administration account was reduced by 15 percent, which translates to a reduction of nearly 400 FTE's. DOE managers worked hard to administer this staff reduction without resorting to a reduction-in-force. In order to save jobs, performance awards were eliminated, overtime was reduced by over half, and furloughs were used to address funding shortfalls. Despite these

substantial reductions in operating costs at DOE headquarters, a 2/3 reduction since 1993, this bill sets the general management and program support function of DOE at 47 percent less than last year and 20 percent less than the administration's request. I believe these reductions are too severe and will not allow DOE to continue to perform its mission.

Mr. Speaker, as you are aware this has been a difficult year for Federal employees. They have endured downsizing, RIFs, shutdowns, general uncertainty, and reduced benefits. Federal employees are among the most resilient people I know, but if we as a Government hope to continue to attract the best and the brightest into Government service, we cannot continue the type of policy set by this legislation. This bill goes too far. I do not disagree that we all need to cutback as we work to balance the Federal budget. However, I am strongly opposed to imposing such severe cuts and limiting DOE's ability to manage these cuts by mandating FTE ceilings.

The negative ramifications of this unprecedented cut will severely affect the many important projects funded in this year's energy and water appropriations bill. The bill targets cuts to the environmental management program, nonproliferation and energy efficiency and renewable energy. In addition, the 90 percent cut in DOE's office of policy will leave only 20 employees to perform critical technical and economic analysis and hamper their ability to efficiently respond to Congress, State and local governments, and private citizens.

Mr. Speaker, I regret the inclusion of these deep and draconian cuts to the DOE budget, and the specific FTE targets mandated on the departmental headquarters. It has damaged this important legislation, and I cannot support its passage.

CASTRO'S INVOLVEMENT IN DRUGS

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 1996

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, this morning the south Florida community woke up to new evidence, in addition to the vast amounts which now exist, of the involvement of the Castro regime in drug smuggling into the United States.

The Miami Herald reported that the Drug Enforcement Agency is investigating a link between Castro and a drug shipment of over 5,000 pounds of cocaine which was confiscated in Miami on January 9.

The Miami Herald reports that the drugs were apparently off loaded inside Cuban waters, to speedboats destined to the United States, from a freighter which originated in Colombia, which had previously docked in Havana to off-load cargo. The Herald story adds that United States law enforcement agencies have apparently also found pictures of the individual responsible for smuggling the drugs with Cuban tyrant Fidel Castro.

Mr. Speaker, no longer can the United States turn its back on Castro's aiding and abetting drug traffickers, because the mounting body of evidence connects Castro with drug trafficking. These allegations deserve to be examined and investigated thoroughly by our drug enforcement agencies.